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REMARKS

Applicant's attorney notes with appreciation the indication by the examiner of the allowability of the subject matter recited in original claims 2, 4, 6, 8 through 10, and 14 through 16.

Accordingly, allowable claims 2, 4, 8, and 10 have each been amended to place them in independent form by including the subject matter of original claim 1. In that regard, amended claim 1 includes the subject matter of original claims 1 and 2; amended claim 4 includes the subject matter of original claims 1 and 4; and amended claim 7 includes the subject matter of original claims 1, 7, and 8. Claim 10 includes the subject matter of original claims 1 and 10, as well as a clarifying amendment to replace the term "rigid" with "axially fixed."

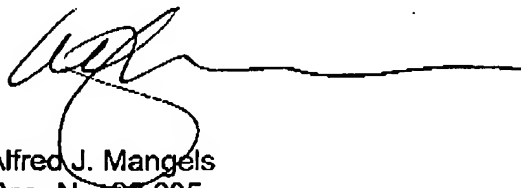
In view of the amendments noted above, original claims 2 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 5 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1, claim 9 has been amended to depend from amended claim 7, and claim 17 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, and in view of the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, all the claims as they now stand in the application are believed clearly to be in allowable form. Consequently, reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested with a view toward the issuance of an early Notice of Allowance.

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The examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if this Amendment raises any questions, so that any such question can be quickly resolved in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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